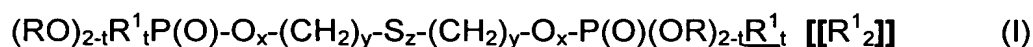


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A compound corresponding to the formula:



in which:

- R represents a hydrogen, an alkyl, an aryl, a trialkylsilyl, a trialkylamino or an alkali metal;
- $R^1$  represents an alkyl or an aryl;
- x is 0 or 1;
- y is an integer from 1 to 22;
- $z \geq 3$ ;
- t is 0 or 1.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is an alkyl radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is trialkylsilyl group  $R'_3Si-$  in which the  $R'$  substituents represent identical or different alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

Claim 4 (Presently Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is a trialkylamino group  $R''_3N-$  in which the  $R''$  substituents represent identical or different alkyl groups having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is an alkali metal selected from the group consisting of Na and K.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $x = 0$ .

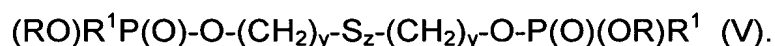
Claim 7 (Presently Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 6, corresponding to the formula  
 $(RO)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_z-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(OR)_2$  (II).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The compound as claimed in claim 6, corresponding to the formula  
 $(RO)R^1P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_z-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(OR)\underline{R^1}$  **[[R']]** (IV).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $x = 1$ .

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 9, corresponding to the formula  
 $(RO)_2P(O)-O-(CH_2)_y-S_z-(CH_2)_y-O-P(O)(OR)_2$  (III).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 9, corresponding to the formula



Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein z is on average equal to 4.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  is an alkyl radical having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms or an aryl radical chosen from the phenyl, benzyl or tolyl radicals.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein y is an integer from 2 to 4.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A composite material comprising an elastomeric matrix and an inorganic filler, wherein the material comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1 as a coupling agent.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The material as claimed in claim 15, wherein the inorganic filler is an oxide, a hydroxide, a carbonate or a silicoaluminate.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The material as claimed in claim 15, wherein the inorganic filler is a metallic material selected from the group consisting of steels, aluminum and copper.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 7 in which each of the R groups is an alkyl Ra and  $z = 4$ , wherein:

- during a first stage, the trialkoxyphosphonate  $P(ORa)_3$  (VI) is reacted with the dibromoalkane  $Br-(CH_2)_y-Br$  (VII) ~~at a temperature of the order of 140°C in order to~~ obtain  $Br-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$  (VIII),
- during a second stage, the phosphonate  $Br-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$  (VIII) is reacted with  $Na_2S_4$  under reflux of the methanol in order to obtain the compound  $(RaO)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_4-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$  (IIa).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 7 in which each of the R groups is a trialkylsilyl  $R'_3Si-$ , comprising reacting the compound  $(RaO)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_4-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$  (IIa) with a trialkylsilyl bromide  $R'_3SiBr$  in a 1/4 molar ratio in order to obtain the compound (IIb)  $(R'_3SiO)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_4-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(OSiR'_3)_2$ .

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 7 in which R is H, comprising hydrolyzing a compound  $(\text{Ra})_2\text{P}(\text{O})-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{S}_4-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{ORa})_2$  in which Ra is an alkyl or hydrolyzing or alcoholizing a compound  $(\text{R}'_3\text{SiO})_2\text{P}(\text{O})-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{S}_4-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OSiR}'_3)_2$ .

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 10 in which R represents H, wherein:

- during a first stage,  $\text{P}(\text{O})\text{Cl}_3$  is reacted with  $\text{HO}(\text{CH}_2)_y\text{Cl}$  in stoichiometric proportions in order to obtain the compound  $\text{Cl}(\text{CH}_2)_y\text{OP}(\text{O})\text{Cl}_2$ ;
- during a second stage, the compound  $\text{Cl}(\text{CH}_2)_y\text{OP}(\text{O})\text{Cl}_2$  is hydrolyzed in order to obtain the compound  $\text{Cl}(\text{CH}_2)_y\text{OPO}_3\text{H}_2$ ;
- during a third stage,  $\text{Cl}(\text{CH}_2)_y\text{OPO}_3\text{H}_2$  is reacted with  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_4$  under reflux of the methanol and then an ion exchange is carried out in order to obtain the compound  $(\text{HO})_2\text{P}(\text{O})-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{S}_z-[\text{---}(\text{CH}_2)\text{---}]_t-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{O}-\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OH})_2$ .

Claim 22 (New): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $t = 1$ .

Claim 23 (New): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $t = 2$ .

Claim 24 (New): The process as claimed in claim 18, wherein during the first stage, the trialkoxyphosphonate  $\text{P}(\text{ORa})_3$  (VI) is reacted with the dibromoalkane  $\text{Br}-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{Br}$  (VII) at a temperature of about  $140^\circ\text{C}$ .